

WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Monday, September 8, 1913.

Pearl Blighting. "My pear trees have blighted badly. Nearly whole limbs are blackened. What shall I do for them?"

If you have read what I have long since told about the pear blight, you might have saved part of the growth at least. The pear blight or fire-blight is a disease caused by the growth of a bacterium or bacillus that is brought to the blossoms in spring on the feet of insects, and grows downward in the tissue of the tree. If the disease is closely watched you can detect the first start of the blight in the shriveling of the young bark before the leaves turn black. Then cut it out several inches below the point where the shriveling is noted, and there will be no more blight in that limb. But to avoid any transfer of the bacilli you should sterilize the knife blade every time a cut is made.

This can be done by having a cloth wet with a solution of the bichloride of mercury, which you can get in tablets at a drug store. This is the corrosive sublimate that has such a name in print from people swallowing the tablets by mistake. Therefore in getting them always put and keep them where there will be no possible danger of any one making a mistake with them. Then as to the pear trees, keep them in grass seed, and not in cultivated and manured soil, for the more rapid and succulent the growth the more the trees will blight. There will be far less blight where the trees are kept in grass, and the grass kept mown and used as a mulch under the trees. Some varieties blight far less than others. The Secor and generally exempt, and Beurre d'Anjou has always escaped the blight with me, while Bartlett and Lawrence are especially subject to it. Then, too, I have never known a blight to take hold of a tree. It was thought that the Kiefer was exempt, but now the Kiefer blights as badly as any. Sheldon and Vicar of Winkfield blight very little. A moderate growth in grass seed, and a strong growth in cultivated ground. But be sure to burn all blighted limbs after cutting them out, for they will harbor the bacteria.

Cedar Rust. A friend in Nelson County writes: "On the Monday last issue of The Times-Dispatch I notice that some one wrote you from Culpeper County in reference to the fact that his York Imperial apples had become small and of no account, and that this was the condition of those of his neighbors. You seem to think it was due to the condition of the soil. In this you are wrong, as it evidently comes from cedar rust. I notice, in going through Culpeper on the railroad, that there are rows of cedars along every fence. It is utterly impossible to make York Imperial apples and cedar trees on the same farm. I have no doubt that your correspondent's farm and those of his neighbors are full of cedars. He had as well make up his mind to cut the apples down if he wants to keep the cedars. You are perfectly right, and if the Culpeper man had said anything about cedars, I would at once have understood his difficulty. Not only York Imperials, but apples of any sort will not thrive near cedar trees. The so-called cedar apples are the winter home of the fungus that attacks the apple leaves in summer. It is a sort of alternation of generations. The spores, which are borne on the apple leaves start their winter form on the cedar trees, and in the spring the knots formed on the cedar trees put out long orange-colored masses of spores, that dry up and blow over on the apple tree and grow there, making the apple leaf rust. No tree can perfect good fruit unless it has healthy leaves, and doubtless this is the trouble in Culpeper, if there are cedars around the orchards. I thank my Nelson friend for the suggestion, for he has doubtless given the cause of the small apples. It is merely a question of apples or cedars, and I have long known that these two trees cannot thrive together, at least the apples cannot. And I would say to my Nelson correspondent that I am always glad to have any criticism of what I may advise in these columns, for in the multitude of counselors there is wisdom. I know all about cedar rust, of course, but in that instance did not think of it.

Germann Millet. Westmoreland County: "This is my first attempt at growing German millet. At what stage of growth should it be cut for hay. Also fodder corn for cutting for feed? How late can crimson clover be sown in the Northern Neck of Virginia?" Millet should be cut as soon as the heads are well out and before the seed is ripe. The ripe seeds will make it dangerous food for horses, since they are apt to cause impaction in the bowels. Corn planted thick for fodder only, should be cut when the tassels are just out. The crimson clover can be sown in the Northern Neck any time up to the middle of September, the earlier the better.

From Hanover County: "A lady has a fine coniferous evergreen in front of her house. She does not know the name, but says that it has fine foliage tipped with gold. She wishes to move the tree, as it obstructs the view. It is twenty feet high, and she would like to know how to move it safely. I have moved large evergreens with success, when only to be moved a short distance, in the following way: cut around the tree outside the spread of the branches to a trench, and then undermine the mass of earth till you get completely under it, and by leaning the tree you can get poles or skids under it. Then cut a channel the width of the mass of earth to the new location and with block and fall haul it over to the new place. Slip out the skids and then ram the soil as tight as possible all around the mass of earth moved with the tree. The time to do this is in the spring, just as the tree starts new growth. Your tree is probably one of the retinopora, from your description, perhaps a retinopora platensis, a Japanese form of arbutus.

Corn Breeding. "I want to breed up an early variety of corn, and am told by older farmers that to do so I must plant late and select seed from the stalks that require the shortest time to mature. I do not believe this, and would like your opinion." The time of planting makes no sort of difference. To get corn of a character suited to your ideal you should start with an early variety and plant a seed patch remote from any other corn. Then, as your object is to get an early maturing corn, watch the corn carefully as the tassels appear, and allow only those that shoot early to remain. Pull out the green tassels

DEEP-SEA PICTURES ON LARGE SCALE

Will Be Taken Following Experiments Made by J. E. Williamson, of Norfolk.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] New York, September 7.—Preliminary experiments made at a deep-sea photography by J. E. Williamson, of Norfolk, Va., have proved such a success that a vessel 200 feet long and fully equipped for the purpose is being made ready to leave this morning for the Bermudas and the West Indies, to take submarine pictures on a large scale.

The waters, especially around Bermuda, abound in such a number of brightly-colored submarine inhabitants, and are so clear, that they are believed to be the best field for observations.

Mr. Williamson's experiments were made through a tube, thirty feet long, with a funnel-like extension covered with glass. This was lowered into the water, and Mr. Williamson took his place at the bottom with his camera. Air was pumped into the chamber and high-powered lights lowered in the water outside the tube.

The present expedition will try further experiments at a much greater depth and hopes to bring back many beautiful specimens of tropical submarine life.

WORK OF CONGRESS FOR ENSUING YEAR IS WELL OUTLINED

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of the embarrassments under which it is now working.

Long Fight Anticipated. The currency hearings, begun early last week before a Senate committee on Banking and Currency, have developed radical expressions of opinion from many members of the Senate Committee, which indicate that long debates must ensue. It is believed that the committee will be necessary before any general agreement can be reached as to the merits of the administration bill. That measure is to come formally before the House next week, and it is believed that, with the weight of party endorsement behind it, it will be passed practically without change in that body.

While the marked antagonism developed at the Senate hearings among the Democratic Committee members toward vital features of the administration bill, the individual expressions of committee members have shown a wide variety of opinions as to the economic strength of certain features of the measure. Senators Taft, Cushman, Shafroth and Reed, Democrats, are particularly active in their questions addressed to the representatives of the American Bankers' Association, who held the stand for the bill, and have advanced many tentative suggestions to their views of necessary currency legislation.

Senator Weeks, Republican, will attempt this week to force the committee to act on his resolution, putting off action on the currency bill until December 2. Administration forces are lining up to meet this issue, however, and Democratic leaders in the Senate have made it plain that President Wilson favors the bill, and that his influence will be strongly exerted against it.

The tariff bill as it passes the Senate this week will represent an average reduction of nearly 5 per cent from the rates of duty fixed in the bill as it originally passed the House of Representatives. With an increased representation in the joint conference committee, the Senate leaders hope to hold most of their reductions in the bill.

The final fights in the Senate over the free wool and free sugar duties will occur tomorrow or Tuesday, when the bill goes to its final passage; but the Democratic forces are believed to be intact, and no modifications in the measure are expected.

Peach Borers. "I have some fine peach trees four years old, and wish to keep the borers out of them. Have been told to paint the trunk of the trees near the ground with white lead. I have some cement used in putting on felt roofing. Could I not use this?" I would rather be afraid to advise the use of the cement, as it might harden so tight as to injure the trees. The white lead will, to a great extent, prevent the moths from laying eggs, but you cannot depend entirely on anything but constant watchfulness. You should go over the trees spring and fall, and wherever any signs of gum appears at the base of the tree, go to work at once to remove it. The only way to make sure of keeping them down.

Growing Dahlias. Dinwiddie County: "Please tell me of some one who can tell me about dahlia growing, and where I can procure good roots." Growing dahlias is very simple matter. Any seedsmen or dealer in plants in Petersburg or Richmond can supply you with the roots in the spring, or you can grow also them from seed. All the dahlias I have—and I have hundreds of them—I have raised from seed. I get seed of a good dealer in spring and sow them in a frame about the same time, or a little later, than I sow my tomato seed. Then, when the plants are a few inches high, and the weather settled and warm, I transplant them into rows three feet apart each way. These seedlings will all bloom the first summer, and I have lots of them now blooming from seed sown this last spring. Many of the seedlings will make inferior flowers, and these I discard, and save only the best. Many of them that make single flowers are fine, for the single flowers are better for cutting than the heavy double ones. I say this means I have selected for several years till I have a collection as good as any I could have bought, and I have the cactus-flowered, the decorative style and the show sorts.

It is fun to watch the seedling plants to see what sort of flowers they will make, and when one gets only a dozen or more out of a hundred that are worth keeping, he will soon get a good collection. To keep the roots in winter, I take them up when the frost cuts the tops, and cut away the tops, leaving four or five inches of the stalks, for the new buds are on the base of the stalks and not on the tubers. I dig a shallow pit and place a layer of straw in it, and on this place the roots closely upside down, and cover with straw thickly, and then mound the earth thickly over the whole. They keep far better in this way than in a cellar. In the spring take them up and place in a warm place till the buds start, and then you can divide the roots with a bud on each portion, and you are ready to plant again.

TWO KILLED WHEN TRAIN HITS AUTO

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Arctic Grass. "I want a good grass for hay, and am contemplating trying the Arctic grass. Before doing so, I would be glad to hear from you on the subject, as I do not know anything about this variety of grass." Neither do I. If you can give me the botanical name of the grass I may be able to advise you. I have seen a few fancy names for plants of any sort, for there are many fakes sent out with unusual names merely to cover up some old and perhaps undesirable thing. I cannot advise in regard to this so-called Arctic grass unless I knew what grass has been given that name.

Figs in the Tidewater Section. A Gloucester clergyman writes me that he has been asked in regard to the probable profit of growing figs in salt water, and would like to know if the Magnolia fig will thrive there. Now, I have grown, as I have before said, over fifty-five varieties of figs, but I have never had one head of any that are called Magnolia figs. This must be a local name for some other well-known fig. The figs we get in the Tidewater section are of the Smyrna varieties, and can only be grown successfully where the little wasp is that sells the fruit, and to have these there must also be the wild Capri, on which they live. They have this in California, and I rather suspect that it is the Smyrna fig my correspondent calls Magnolia.

Fit Ten Correct Titles To These Ten Pictures

Ten correct titles are pointed out to you in the Contest Catalogue by having stars printed opposite them. The very ten pictures they fit are told you in the Answer Book. Ten of the numbered Answer Book pages have circles printed on them. The ten pictures which go on these ten pages are the ten pictures that the ten starred titles fit.

Ten of the Correct Titles Are Marked for You in the Catalogue

You will find in the Catalogue ten titles marked with a STAR. So if you have a Catalogue you will find ten of the titles marked for you. This leaves you but sixty-seven titles to find for yourself. The Catalogue contains all of the seventy-seven correct titles, but ten of the correct titles are marked for you with a star. With the Catalogue you get Pictures Nos. 1 to 35 FREE.

Suppose a picture represents a man who is standing in the window of the top floor of a burning building. Well, if you have a Catalogue you can easily pick out its title. "In Peril of His Life," or "Facing Death," etc. Use your ingenuity in picking out what sort of titles that picture might represent. Then look in your Catalogue to see if such titles are listed there. If you do not find one of your possible titles in the Catalogue, then you can be sure that the title is not correct.

For all the correct titles are in the Catalogue. With the Catalogue and your own common sense you will have no trouble in solving the seventy-seven pictures; and, remember, the Catalogue contains ten of the titles marked for you with a star, so you really only have sixty-seven pictures to tell the titles to.

Get your Catalogue and the free pictures to-day and win your share of those wonderful prizes. You can win, and easily, too.

The Times-Dispatch's Great \$1200.00 Gold Booklovers' Contest

Picture No. 44 Date, September 8th.



What Book Does This Picture Represent? Write Title and Name of Author in Form Below

Title

Author

Your Name

Street and Number

City or Town

TOTAL NUMBER OF PICTURES, 77. Contest began July 27th. Each day a different picture appears in this space. Cut them out. Save them until the last picture appears on October 11th. Don't send in partial lists. Wait until you have all the answers to the 77. Read Rules, Daily Story and Special Announcements in another part of this paper. It will help you win a prize. Extra pictures and coupons of any date that have appeared may be had at 2c. Enter to-day without registering your name. Merely Save Pictures and Coupons as they appear.

A four-page pamphlet giving all details of this contest was printed in this newspaper some time ago. If you did not see it, send a 2-cent stamp or call at the office.

The principal features in connection with this contest are copyrighted by the Booklovers' Contest Co., San Francisco, Cal.

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Booklovers' Contest Editor, The Times-Dispatch:

Inclosed find 40 cents, for which send me a Booklovers' Contest Catalogue of about 5,000 book titles and the seven certificates redeemable for the first thirty-five pictures.

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Booklovers' Contest Editor, The Times-Dispatch:

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Do not send stamps or silver. Send check or money order.

BEWARE OF FAKERS Who Offer to Sell Worthless List of Titles---They Cannot Help You How They Work

These fakers generally advertise that for a 2-cent stamp they will send several titles, which, in the opinion of the fakers, will prove correct titles to the pictures. Accompanying the "sample" lists of titles will be a letter advising that for 50 cents, a dollar, two dollars, or more, they will supply lists of titles that will seem to fit the pictures. Don't deal with these sharpers. If they could furnish a list of titles, they would solve the pictures—they would use their own lists and win the prizes. They know no more about the titles than you do.